

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, LU

SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG STATEMENT ON DEATH OF FRANCO AND
REPRESENTATION AT FUNERAL

1. PRIME MINISTER GASTON THORN TODAY RELEASED THE FOLLOWING
DECLARATION ON THE DEATH OF GENERAL FRANCO. ALTHOUGH CARRIED
BY LUXEMBOURG NEWSPAPERS AS COMING FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF LUXEMBOURG,
FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT THE STATEMENT WAS
ISSUED SOLELY IN THORN'S CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE GOL.

2. QUOTE: NO ONE WILL DENY, NOW THAT HE IS GONE, THAT
GENERAL FRANCO HAD AN EXCEPTIONAL DESTINY. HE LED HIS COUNTRY
FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS, DURING A PARTICULARLY CRITICAL PERIOD.
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT EVEN AFTER HIS DEATH, HIS
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SHADOW STILL EXTENDS OVER HIS COUNTRY. IT IS IN THIS THAT HE

IS EXCEPTIONAL. DURING THIRTY YEARS, HE HAS BEEN -- PERHAPS
EVEN MORE THAN HITLER -- THE SYMBOL OF THE ANTAGONISM
BETWEEN TWO SYSTEMS FUNDAMENTALLY OPPOSED, THE ANTAGONISM
BETWEEN AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES AND THOSE LED BY POPULAR FRONTS
OR COMMUNISTS. THUS HIS DEPARTURE EXCITES GREATER ATTENTION
THAN THAT OF ANY OTHER STATESMAN. DURING THESE LONG
YEARS, MEN AND NATIONS HAVE HAD THE TIME TO FORM A
JUDGMENT OF GENERAL FRANCO AS A MAN AND OF HIS METHOD OF
GOVERNING. TO PRONOUNCE SUCH A JUDGMENT NOW, AT THE
HOUR OF HIS DEATH, WOULD ADD NOTHING TO HISTORY. EVERYONE,
I BELIEVE, HOLDS SUCH A JUDGMENT IN HIS OWN HEART; HOWEVER,
IT IS REALLY NOT FOR US TO JUDGE GENERAL FRANCO
AS A MAN. THAT JUDGMENT BELONGS TO GOD.

3. CONTINUE QUOTE: OUR CONCERN IS RATHER FOR SPAIN,
WHICH IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO TAKE ITS PLACE IN EUROPE.
AT THIS MOMENT, WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE RATHER THAN TO THE
PAST. SPAIN FINDS ITSELF AT AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT
IN ITS HISTORY, ONE WHICH OUGHT TO PERMIT IT TO ATTAIN,
WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DAMAGE, A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY.
GENERAL FRANCO IMPOSED HIS LAW. HIS GREATEST MERIT
WAS WITHOUT DOUBT TO HAVE KEPT HIS COUNTRY OUT OF THE
CONFLICT OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. HIS FAILURE LAY
IN THE FACT THAT HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND HOW TO REUNITE
HIS PEOPLE, WHO SEEMED ALWAYS DIVIDED IN TWO. OUR MOST
FERVENT WISH IS THAT SPAIN SHOULD NOW REGAIN ITS
UNITY, FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK
THERE, FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY OF EUROPE, AND
FOR THE GOOD OF THE ENTIRE WEST. END QUOTE.

4. LUXEMBOURG DOES NOT MAINTAIN AN AMBASSADOR IN MADRID,
AND WILL BE REPRESENTED AT FRANCO'S FUNERAL BY ITS
AMBASSADOR IN PARIS, MR. CAMILLE DUMONT. FOR THE
CORONATION OF JUAN CARLOS, GOL DEFINITELY PLANS TO SEND
A MEMBER OF THE GRAND DUCAL FAMILY, BUT HAS NOT YET
FINALLY DECIDED WHETHER PRINCE CHARLES (BROTHER OF THE
REIGNING GRAND DUKE) OR CROWN PRINCE HENRI WILL REPRESENT
THE GRAND DUCHY. FARKAS

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